



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa Contreras (619) 515-6579
Southwestern College Contact: Chris Bender (619) 482-6564

TUBERCULOSIS CASE REPORTED AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

County Health and School Officials Working Together to Notify Students and Staff

An individual who attends Southwestern College at satellite locations in San Ysidro and National City was recently diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and may have exposed students and staff to the disease, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reported today.

HHSA is working in close collaboration with college officials to notify students and staff who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB). The period of exposure is from January 20, 2011 to March 16, 2011.

"Symptoms of active TB include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss," says Dr. Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "Most people who are exposed to TB do not develop the disease, but when it does occur, it can be treated and cured with medication; that's why it's so important to identify those who have been exposed."

Southwestern College officials are in the process of notifying the individuals who were potentially exposed. No-cost testing for students, faculty and staff who have been exposed will be conducted at Southwestern Student Health Services in San Ysidro and National City from July 11th through July 18th. Testing at the San Ysidro campus will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and at the National City campus on Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students may also get tested during regular Student Health Center hours at the main Southwestern College campus.

Individuals who would like more information may call the Southwestern Student Health Services at (619) 482-6354. The County TB Control Program can also be contacted at (619) 692-8621.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. During 2010, there were 222 cases of TB reported in San Diego County and 107 have been reported thus far in 2011.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 207 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472